

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, the Group I Invention, claims 1-19, 25-35 and 44, drawn to a vessel, for examination on the merits in this application.

This election is made with traverse. It is noted that claim 8 and claim 32 link the combinations of claim 1 and claim 25, respectively, to the sub-combination of claim 20, such that the combinations as recited in claims 8 and 32 require the particulars of the sub-combination. Thus, examination of the Group II Invention with the elected Group I Invention is submitted to be in order. Furthermore, claim 40 links the Group III Invention to Inventions I and II. Therefore, these Inventions should all properly be examined together and the conditions for the claims to be held distinct do not apply.

Responsive to the Examiner's Species election requirement, applicant hereby provisionally elects Species 3; the embodiment of Figure 6. Currently, and contrary to the Examiner's claim grouping, claims 1-12, 19-27, 29-32 and 36-44 read on the elected species. Currently claims 1-12, 19-27, 30-32 and 36-44 are generic. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Species election upon allowance of one or more of said generic claims is respectfully requested.

This Species election is made with traverse. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Species election is respectfully requested. The invention relates in particular to a uniquely designed water filtration vessel or container optimized for the addition of a highly porous substrate (filtration media) coated with activated carbon and optionally other water treatment compounds which permits the vessel to fill rapidly without trapping air and pour rapidly as a result of an unobstructed air passage during the pour cycle. An element common to all embodiments is the provision of a tube for allowing

air venting. Although the (vent) tube may be used as a fill tube in the embodiment of Figure 6, the basic and common inventive concept noted above is embodied in each of the Figures identified by the Examiner and thus the embodiments are best considered together. Moreover, as noted, most of the claims presented are generic to most or all embodiments identified by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

Although the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 4, 10 and 11 are directed to species I, it is respectfully submitted that these claims read on and are generic to species I, III and IV inasmuch as they certainly read on the elected species of Figure 6. Note that the pitcher embodiment of Figure 6 would be well understood to provide an annular volume 58 and it is clear that the inner body is substantially filled with the filter media in that embodiment.

Attached is a Form PTO-1449 listing the enclosed documents.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before an Action on the Merits, no official fee is due. If the Examiner believes that a fee is due, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned so that the Examiner's position can be evaluated.

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the herewith Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 along with an early action on the merits of this application are earnestly solicited.

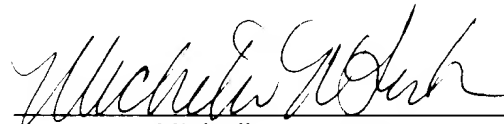
MIERAU et al  
Appl. No. 09/963,636  
August 27, 2003

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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